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Third Committee
Agenda item 70 (f)
Promotion and protection of human rights: celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Benin:* draft resolution

International Year of Human Rights Learning

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations include encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

Reaffirming the central importance of human rights education in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[2]

Recalling its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, in which it decided that the Human Rights Council should promote human rights education and learning as well as advisory services, technical assistance and capacity-building,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in which Heads of State and Government expressed their support for the promotion of human rights education and learning at all levels, including through the implementation of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, as appropriate, and encouraged all States to develop initiatives in that regard,[3]

Acknowledging that non-governmental organizations play an important role at the national, regional and international levels in the promotion and protection of human rights through education and learning,

Considering that the sixtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 2008 is a suitable occasion to redouble the

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States.

[1] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[2] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III, paras. 78-82.

[3] Resolution 60/1, para. 131.

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Organization's efforts to promote a human rights culture worldwide through education and learning,

Welcoming the adoption by the Human Rights Council on 28 September 2007 of a resolution entitled "United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training",

Convinced that every woman, man and child, in order to realize their full human potential, must be made aware of all their human rights and fundamental freedoms,[4]

Convinced that human rights learning should serve to transform the holistic vision of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights into a way of life for people everywhere and a standard to measure the legitimacy of governments,

1. *Decides* that the year commencing on 10 December 2007 shall be proclaimed the International Year of Human Rights Learning, devoted to activities to broaden and deepen human rights learning as a way of life, on the basis of the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity, constructive international dialogue and cooperation, with a view to enhancing the promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development;

2. *Decides also* that the Human Rights Council shall promote the effective coordination and creative development of human rights learning among Member States and within the United Nations system;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to cooperate among themselves to promote human rights learning and to undertake throughout the year and beyond, at local, national and international levels, activities aimed at ensuring the universal knowledge and implementation of human rights;

4. *Invites* the Human Rights Council and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to develop, in cooperation with civil society organizations and appropriate United Nations agencies and programmes, suitable activities to promote human rights learning at all levels of society;

5. *Decides* to devote a high-level segment at its sixty-third session to reviewing activities of Member States and civil society aimed at human rights learning in the context of the commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[4] See resolution 54/161.